

THE QUARTERLY ROUND-UP

4TH Quarter



Webb County Judge, Tano E. Tijerina's Newsletter



Dear Webb County,

From a presidential election to tackling a county deficit to seeing my baby girl Bonnie Jean graduating high school—one thing is certain, 2016 was certainly an eventful year for all of us!

No doubt 2016 will have a lasting impact on many of us. As we look toward the future, it is important to reflect on where we have been to know where we are headed. Now more than ever I know Webb County is poised for greatness. I always say that Webb County is like no other county, we imbue visitors and our growth with open arms.

As we anticipate the challenges, opportunities and blessings of 2017, I want to remind everyone to have an open mind. Change can sometimes be difficult but the secret is not to fight the old but to reflect on its legacy and spirit to set a strong foundation for years to come. Each New Year presents 12 months of opportunity for Webb County to strive for new heights.

As the New Year unfolds, I wish you a year filled with many blessings, joy, happiness and peace. Thank you for a memorable year, I am truly humbled and honored to serve as your Webb County Judge.

Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2

**SENATORS VISIT WEBB
COUNTY**

3

**CHRISTMAS DINNER
WITH THE JUDGE**

4

**JUDGE PUSHES FOR
FUNDING PLAN**

**DALLAS COWBOY
TOURS VETERANS
SERVING THE NEED**

5

**RESIDENTS HOST
MEETING**

6

**STOP DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

**WELCOME
COMMISSIONER**

7

**LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
2017**

SENATORS

VISIT

WEBB COUNTY

SENATOR TED CRUZ



While the Senate was in summer recess, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) met with Judge Tijerina and other leaders as he visited Webb County as part of a 5-day tour of Texas. In a roundtable discussion Senator Cruz listened to local officials as they voiced the different needs our community has.

Senator Cruz expressed his top priorities as Texas Senator which include economic growth and national security. When the topic of national security arose, Judge Tijerina took this opportunity to voice his position on “the wall.” Judge Tijerina believes that there are alternative methods to provide security other than building a wall. Senator Cruz said in a press release that “In Laredo, the brave men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol work extraordinarily hard and risk their lives every day to secure our border, and it’s imperative that the federal government provides them with the necessary



tools to enforce our nation’s immigration laws. I’m proud to continue working closely with leaders from Laredo and San Antonio to ensure that our state remains at the forefront of national security and American exceptionalism.”

Senator Cruz plans to visit Webb County later this year to become more acquainted with the demands of our community.



SENATOR EDDIE LUCIO, JR.

Senator Lucio met with Judge Tijerina and Commissioners on his first stop of 24 that he plans to do throughout Texas. In preparation for the 2017 Legislative Session, Lucio plans to meet with different counties to hear pressing issues they may have and recommend to the state for legislative action.



Senator Lucio is the chair of the Intergovernmental Relations which focuses primarily on issues pertaining to the city and county.

Senator Lucio spoke about different bills that he has facilitated in getting approved but placed special emphasis on the importance a county needs to be properly equipped to experience growth.

Judge Tijerina took this opportunity to inquire on different ways Webb County can facilitate local veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Senator Lucio replied assuring Judge Tijerina that this issue is one that he plans on addressing and will do everything possible to assist our local veterans obtain the treatment they deserve. Other issues that were mentioned were the county budget, financial assistance for colonias and removing barriers for veterans housing in counties regardless of the populations brackets.



Christmas Dinner with the Judge



"It was such a great success last year that I wanted to do it again, to not only reward the students but to also encourage them to continue with their education" -

Pete Mims, Owner of Border Foundry



The evening was a memorable one for Judge Tijerina as he heard the personal stories of each student and learned about their future aspirations. Tijerina and Mims also thanked Communities in Schools for always having a profound impact on our students.



The holiday spirit was in full swing at Border Foundry Restaurant. Local restaurateur Mr. Pete Mims helped Judge Tijerina host sixteen high school students for the second annual "Christmas Dinner with the Judge."

A tradition that began last year, sixteen deserving students from the Communities in School program were invited to share in an evening of joy, merriment and holiday cheer hosted by Judge Tijerina. These students were selected from different high schools by their counselors. The idea behind the event is to hear each of the student's personal stories and to have them open up about their future hopes and dreams in a mentoring environment with the Judge.



"Stories were shared, tears were shed and life long memories were cre-



ated! I want to thank the students who took the time out of their schedule to join me. It was an experience I will cherish forever."

Judge Tijerina.

Judge Pushes for Funding Plan After 3 Years

Transportation infrastructure continues to be top priority in Webb County and after 3 years of dialogue, Webb County in conjunction with the City of Laredo, passed a funding plan that allocates funding for the construction of two additional overpasses along State Loop (SL) 20. Chief Executive Administrator, Lalo Uribe and Webb County's engineering consultant successfully developed the schematic, environmental, and finalized 100% Plans Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) for the SL20 Overpass at I-35. The funding plan will utilize TxDOT funds, **NOT** local LUTS-MPO funds and construction will begin in January of 2017.

Webb County Judge, Tano Tijerina placed an item on the July 18, 2016 Laredo Urban Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (LUTS-MPO) Policy Committee meeting for possible approval.

Tijerina motioned to approve the funding plan to construct the SL20 Airport Overpass by late 2017 and construction for Jacaman overpass by late 2019. This plan was approved by unanimous vote. Following the same methodology, the entire SL20 overpass can be under construction by 2023.



“It is clear that Webb County has been without a funding plan for far too long. Today's action showed that both governing bodies are getting serious when it comes to our transportation infrastructure.”
Judge Tijerina

The plan approved represents the most aggressive plan of action to make projects along SL20 corridor shovel ready and leverage real locally directed federal and state monies to expedite construction.

“It is important that we be proactive when it comes to transportation infrastructure.” - Judge Tijerina



DALLAS COWBOY TOURS



VETERANS SERVING THE NEED



FACILITY

Three time Super Bowl Champion of the Dallas Cowboy, Chan Hennings visited Veterans Serving the Need in Webb County. Hennings along with Judge Tano Tijerina were given a tour by Ms. Gigi Ramos, CEO of Veterans Serving the Need, of the facility.



Ramos highlighted the history of Veterans Serving the Need and how it has evolved into what it is today. Ramos has been a strong advocate for local veterans through Veterans Serving the Need program. She explained to Hennings, “the mission behind the program is to help needy veterans and surviving spouses by providing bags of food, including frozen items, and personal hygiene products once a month and other essential household items when needed and available.” The program is funded through the sale of donated items and through financial gifts and grants.



Judge Tijerina expressed to Hennings his appreciation towards Ramos and what she has done for our local veterans, “Gigi has been an integral part in our community. She has always striven to go the extra mile for our veterans and their families.”

Hennings is not only a three-time Super Bowl Champion, he is also an Air Force veteran flying over 45 combat missions over Iraq and Turkey. Hennings applauded Ramos for her effort and dedication for veterans and their families.



Residents Host Meeting

Colorado Acres water dispenser operations, road improvements, and solid waste management were just a few topics that were addressed in a town

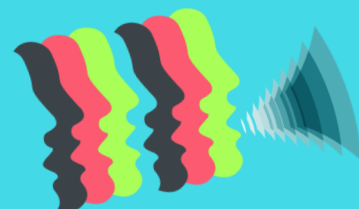
hall meeting hosted by Precinct 3 residents of Webb County. In a meeting that consisted of over 100 residents, lasting over 2 hours, residents were able to voice their concerns directly to Judge Tano Tijerina, Commissioner Galo and County Engineer Luis Perez-Garcia.

Residents of Las Lomas and Las Pilas expressed their concern that the current hours of operation at the Colorado Acres water dispenser are causing problems amongst the community. "If

having the water dispenser available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. is an issue then we will revert to the original hours of operation from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. immediately, we are here to service you however we can" said Judge Tijerina.



Residents also took this opportunity to convey the need for an additional road to access the dispenser. County Engineer Luis Perez-Garcia informed residents that with an additional dispenser underway, the county plans to have a split driveway allowing residents to access the water dispenser two at a time reducing wait time.





In collaboration with Mayor Pete Saenz and other key community leaders, Judge Tijerina has launched “Be a Man and Stand Up” a campaign against domestic violence. Webb County is strongly positioned through its leadership to implement this strategic approach which calls on all men to take a pledge and stand against domestic violence.

Judge Tijerina has produced a compelling video featuring Congressman Henry Cuellar, State Representative Tracy King, Mayor Pete Saenz, and other community leaders expressing the severity of **domestic violence** and how men can be engaged to put an end to it.

Gloria Aguilera Terry, Chief Executive Officer at the Texas Council on Family Violence, recently traveled to **Webb County** to raise awareness of domestic violence. “We focus on three important elements of ending violence – supporting survivors, holding abusers accountable and perhaps, most important, preventing the violence before it begins by challenging the underlying attitudes and beliefs that feed violent behavior. Together we will make violence a part of our past and not a tragic daily reality. The **leadership** demonstrated in Webb County tends to those key elements,” said Terry.

As **National Domestic Violence Awareness** month drew to a close, Judge Tijerina felt it was necessary not only to raise awareness during October but sustain efforts yearlong. “Not a month should go by that we don’t remember and support the

STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

BE A MAN

AND STAND UP



victims and survivors and as men we need to **take a stand** against domestic violence,” said Tijerina.

Mayor Pete Saenz encourages all men to take the pledge against domestic violence. “The **fight** against domestic violence must continue and we should all do our part to end this. I encourage all men to take the pledge against domestic violence.”

Sister Rosemary Welsh, Executive Director at Casa de Misericordia, **thanked** community leaders for taking a stand against domestic violence, “it is in collaborating together that we can break the cycle of violence.”

All men are encouraged to take the pledge at webbcountytexas.gov/CountyJudge/webbmenagainstabuse.



To view the video click on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2g9l2wfBoOo&t=5s>

Welcome Commissioner Jesse Gonzalez



Gonzalez has been a long-time dedicated public servant through law enforcement for fourteen years, but in 2013 he began to contemplate serving the public in a new role as a county commissioner. Gonzalez is a product of Precinct 1 and knew that if he wanted to influence greater change in his community, he would need to take the chance and run for Commissioner. On January 1, 2017, he was officially sworn in as Commissioner of Precinct 1 and began a new chapter in his career as a public servant.

The newly elected commissioner is ready to tackle issues and hit the ground running. He plans to take Precinct 1 to new heights by promoting economic growth and focusing on infrastructure.

Gonzalez not only has a profound love for his Precinct, he also has a profound love for his wife, his two daughters and of course the Dallas Cowboys.

"Commissioner Gonzalez, I am pleased to welcome you to the Commissioners Court family. I as well as everyone look forward to working with you for the benefit of our

constituents. I know it will be a change from law enforcement but I have no doubt that you will do an excellent job for Precinct 1 and for all of Webb County. Shall you need anything from my office please do not hesitate to ask, we are here to help. Once again I extend my warmest congratulations and wish you the very best in your future endeavors." – Judge Tijerina.

On December 31, 2016, Commissioner Jesse Gonzalez will be suiting up in his law enforcement uniform for the last time.

WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2017

2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

1. ELIMINATE CONFLICTS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS
2. CONTINUATION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC BENEFITS FOR PERSONS INCARCERATED IN COUNTY JAIL
3. MANDATORY MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE SERVICES IN THE ETJ (EXTRA-TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION) BY COUNTIES
4. PERMITTING OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SITES LOCATED IN FLOODPLAINS
5. EXPAND THE APPLICABILITY OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT TO ALL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RELATING TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT MATTERS.
6. INCLUDE AN ALTERNATE FOR THE REMOVAL OF COUNTY AUDITOR
7. MODIFY THE SETTING OF SALARIES FOR COUNTY AUDITOR AND ASSISTANTS TO ENSURE CONFORMITY WITH LOCALLY ADOPTED WAGE & CLASSIFICATION PAY PLANS
8. EXPANSION OF VETERANS HOUSING PROGRAMS BY COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES
9. EXPANSION OF COLONIA SELF-HELP CENTER PROGRAMS
10. HOURS OF WORK OF COUNTY OF EMPLOYEES
11. LIMITED ORDINANCE-MAKING AUTHORITY FOR COUNTIES
12. MINERAL USE OF SUBDIVIDED LAND (CHAPTER 92, NATURAL RESOURCES CODE)

VISIT US ONLINE



Webb County Judge Tano E. Tijerina



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